

# AMERICA

PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DEC 2 1937  
DETROIT

## BOOK SURVEY SUPPLEMENT

### BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

ON CHRISTMAS EVE as the soft dusk grows grayer and the lights glow so chastely, there flows into our souls the lethargy of great calm. For us it is the calm of the vigil before the Mass, the joy of the eve that ushers in the newest birth of the Eternal Babe. But also for us is it the calm that follows upon the sluggard weeks of our spiritual Advent, upon the hectic and so troubled days of the buying and preparing gifts for the holiday. For a certain class of friends, we can think of nothing appropriate but spoons and sheets, wraps, gems and toys, trinkets and perfumes, and all the what-nots of a department store. So be it for them. But others of your friends live more in the mind. It is for them we offer you an easy solution for the Christmas problem of giving. It is that of fifty-two weekly instalments of *AMERICA*, or twenty-six neat little *Catholic Minds*, or four bulky numbers of *Thought*. These are presents that accord with the spirit of Him Whose kingdom we strive humbly to glorify.



THE NATIVITY  
BY JOHN J. A. MURPHY

THIS BOOK REVIEW attempts to survey in a rapid mode the more notable volumes of the year. In one way it may be regarded as an editorial glance over the book world, and as such of use to scholars and librarians, to dealers and teachers. And then, in another way, but in a way intended, it may be used as a guide for safe and easy shopping. Some of the books hereafter listed are of their nature gift-books, whereas others would, perhaps, hang heavy on a Christmas tree. It would be a pleasant diversion to shop among the titles, marking this for him, and that for her. Books profit the giver and the taker; they form a union of minds between the one who selects and the one who accepts. Apart from that, a good book is a fine present, and two good books are still finer. The superlative present in books is that of the twelve selections made monthly by the Catholic Book Club, or the ten chosen by the Spiritual Book Associates, or, for children, a year's subscription to *Pro Parvulis*.

# LITERATURE



WHEN one is dealing with books all the time, one is liable to read fewer books through in the course of a year than when one is reading for pleasure, and not for profession. The real lover of literature, with only one new book at hand at a time, "gets down to it." The "slave of literature"—to which status journalism reduces one—with dozens of new books at hand all the time, is likely to paw through a few of them, glance through a few others, skim through a few more, and finally find himself in full intellectual possession of not more than half a dozen completed books in the course of the year. My record is a little better than that; but it is additionally marred because of the fact that in the course of the past year I have been trying, *simul*, to complete two books myself. Other people's books become tremendously annoying when you are trying to write one (not to speak of two) of your own.

I read recently a statement that a very prominent novelist (somebody like Somerset Maugham—though it probably wasn't he) reads only one novel a year. The average novel-devourer of the local ladies' reading circle would probably be ashamed of herself if she couldn't cover that much territory twice a week.

In our day, of which I recently heard Robert Hillyer say, "there never was a time when so many people read, nor when so many—despite the lack of literary giants—could write so well," it is advisable to have an eye on the family book-case. One wants to put in it, along with the standard classics, things that might be potential classics of today. Showy, ephemeral, popular books—novels, detective stories, and the like, look well there "in their period"; but because this lasts not much more than a month or so, the judicious book-shelf filler will want to lay alongside the Complete Works of Thackeray, Dickens, or any of the Victorian or Romantic poets, something that seems to challenge the test of time.

As two books, immediately likely to fulfil this requirement, I suggest *The Notebooks and Papers of Gerard Manley Hopkins* (Oxford), edited by Humphry House, and *Hymns to the Church* (Sheed and Ward), by Gertrud von le Fort, translated by Margaret Chanler. The former is unquestionably one of the notable documents issued in our day, containing all the brilliant literary, ascetical and artistic evidence warranted to establish its Jesuit author as one of the most outstanding creative persons of the last one-and-a-half centuries. The second book, flawlessly rendered in English by an American Catholic lady (so much more Catholic under her title of Margaret, than of Mrs. Winthrop Chanler), is a series of apostrophes to the Faith and its corporate expression in the form of "The Church," so tender, childlike and trustful, as to make the book almost incapable of enough read-

ings. There is also Miss von le Fort's *Song at the Scaffold* (a re-publication), the tale of the courageous conflict of a Carmelite nun at the time of the French Revolution—an exquisite story; but not nearly so imperishable as the author's *Hymns to the Church*.

Next to these books I would rate a group notable for their value as "scholarship." In first place I should put *Realization: a Philosophy of Poetry* (Sheed and Ward), by Hugh McCarron, S.J., which book, if it is neglected in America, will eventuate so only because the American reading-public has not as yet awakened to the problem of esthetics as it is approached by the outstanding philosophers of Europe. Then there is *The Metaphysical Poets* (Macmillan), by Helen C. White, a praiseworthy discussion by an American Catholic lady of that group of lyricists who confused (much as they fascinated) me at one of the crucial points of English literary history, the period of John Donne *et al.*, just after the time when the English nation had defected from the true Church and Faith. And, though it is a far cry from that to this, nothing could be said, in view of his limitations, too much in praise of Van Wyck Brooks' *The Flowering of New England* (Dutton), a resumé of the creative scene in America in the early nineteenth century, which won the Pulitzer Prize in its class, and was one of the very few books that ever deserved to do so. One might add to these the *Art and Prudence* (Longmans) of J. Mortimer Adler (a Jewish Scholastic philosopher) who adds illuminating material to supplement the *Art and Scholasticism* (Scribners) of Jacques Maritain.

As an intermediary book—ininitely preferable to Mr. Woolcott's either *First* or *Second Reader*—I place Maurice Baring's delightful *Have You Anything to Declare?* (Knopf), an anthology of things he has read and liked, ranging all the way from the Greek to the Russian to the French to the English, so as to make it almost indispensable; that is, provided you trust Mr. Baring's taste as much as I do.

Poetry is a good staple for a book-case, and looks not badly there, no matter how insignificant the poet may be. But in the course of the past year there has not been done anything notable in the way of verse. The first book I should mention would be that of Sara Teasdale. Of her tragic end probably everyone knows. But in her *Collected Poems* (Macmillan) I have found delight in her ability to say and re-say a few things always in a new way; and this is probably a great test of lyrical ability. And she is so consistently gentle and chaste! Edna St. Vincent Millay offered us during the year her *Conversation at Midnight* (Harper), reviewed by our Father LaFarge, in which I found as a perpetual irritant her constant depreciation of the qualities of her own sex. Miss Millay is clever, all too much so; but when she stops looking at every other woman as a "doll," we men may take a shine to her.

There was also in the field of poetry Padraic Colum's *The Story of Lowery Maen* (Macmillan), one of those things that Colum does and keeps on



doing, leaving nobody to know whether he is Catholic, or Ascendant, or Yeatsian, or What-have-you. It might be well for him soon to make up his mind. Earlier in the year I had occasion to review the poems of two young Jesuits, John Louis Bonn in *Canticle* (Bruce Humphries), and Joseph R. N. Maxwell in *Completed Fragments* (Manthorne and Burack); and if you want to know how highly I rate both of them in technical ability, read the blurb-jackets on their respective volumes.

Christmas, being a time for light-heartedness of any sort, there can be recommended to anyone anxious for a laugh *Life With Mother* (Knopf), by Clarence Day, of which the critics say: "as good as *Life With Father*," which is high praise; the riotously funny and original *The Education of Hyman Kaplan* (Harcourt, Brace), by Leonard Q. Ross; and the eminently intelligent and corrective *Let Your Mind Alone!* (Harper), by—of all people—James Thurber! Of what do I call his book "a corrective"? Of the detestable two that follow: *How to Win Friends and Influence People* (Simon and Schuster), by Dale Carnegie, and *Streamline Your Mind* (Lippincott), by James L. Mursell, both being courses in mugged-up culture, endeavoring to supply brains and charm to people who have neither.

If you like lives of the saints in which the saints tell their own stories—and that is the way we have come to know and to be so fond of Saint Paul, Saint Augustine, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux—there is much spiritual refreshment in *The Life and Works of Mother Benedict Bauer* (Bruce), *The Journals and Letters of Mother Theodore Guerin* (Providence Press), and most of all in *The Life and Letters of Janet Erskine Stuart* (Longmans), one of the most charming women who ever lived, from God's standpoint as well as ours. Léon Bloy, whether he be a saint or not, tells his own love-story in firebrand style in his *Letters to His Fiancée* (Sheed and Ward) and the revelation is unforgettable. Sister Marie Virginia in G. K. Chesterton's *Evangel* (Benziger) allows that great and holy man to tell his own story as far as possible, though she may not have heard the accusation that in his *Autobiography* he wrote everybody else's autobiography but his own. The first part of Agnes Repplier's *Eight Decades* (Houghton, Mifflin) is autobiographical, too, and there is much sweetness in it, bordering at times very close to sanctity.

At the point of a gun (though I may be horning in on somebody else's territory in listing them here) the two books I should unqualifiedly choose as Christmas gifts for a Catholic (even despite the controversies connected with them) are *The Diary of a Country Priest* by Georges Bernanos (Macmillan), and *Brother Petroc's Return* (Little, Brown), the latter written by a very gifted English nun under the initials S. M. C. (Why do nuns write under initials or pseudonyms? I can never understand it, and am all against it.) S. M. C.'s book is marred chiefly by a grudge—that against the "formalities" of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Does not S. M. C. realize that it was Brother Petroc's regime of spirituality, not St. Ignatius' which collapsed at the time of the Reforma-

tion? But one (even a Jesuit) can be generous in the face of such a good story.

Or else, if I had \$12.50, and loved somebody to that extent, I should give Audubon's *Birds of America* (Macmillan), one of the most beautiful Christmas-tree books ever made. And I forgot to mention when speaking of poetry, that Tom Boggs (whoever he is) issued through Macmillan a book called *51 Neglected Lyrics* (wherever he got them); and I am glad somebody gave that book to me and am sure Tom will be, too.

LEONARD FEENEY

## FICTION



THERE is, of course, little point in urging the Christmas book-buyer to choose one of the ancient or modern classics. There is something about a new jacket that is strangely fascinating, and he wants to find out what lies between it. It may be a brutishly inhuman document like Ernest Hemingway's latest attempt to make it up with the brothers on the Left, or an excursion into the moral underworld like Elmer Rice's *Imperial City*. More often than not there is nothing that will seriously challenge the Everyman's Library or the pocket classics. Many new books, however, are neither trivial nor of only temporary importance; a few of them may very well be bracketed with the classics themselves.

One novel is most certainly destined for a niche alongside *Maria Chapdelaine*. A nun who hides behind the initials S. M. C. has written a brief but brilliant narrative about a Benedictine monk of the sixteenth century who comes to life in this mad and complicated world of the twentieth. *Brother Petroc's Return* (Little, Brown) combines theological, dramatic and atmospheric elements so remarkably that it is a theological treatise for the theologian, a thrilling story for a young playwright, who has already asked permission to dramatize it, and a charming idyll for at least three non-Catholic reviewers who did not perfectly understand its real significance. Hitherto it has enjoyed only a *succès d'estime*. Another fine novel, but in a very different genre, is Maxence van der Meersch's epic *Invasion* (Viking), a sad and sometimes sordid tale of a French town captured by the Germans during the World War; and still another is Sigrid Undset's methodical but by no means dull study of modern marriage in *The Faithful Wife* (Knopf).

Trygve Gulbrandsen's medieval-toned story, *The Wind from the Mountains* (Putnam), George Bernanos' slightly subtle *The Diary of a Country Priest* (Scribners), and Sheila Kaye-Smith's rural tragedy, *Rose Deeprose* (Harper) will be appreciated by the mature reader, while those who prefer fiction which teaches but does not seriously study the pro-

found implications of Christian life will find in Edward Shiel's *Gael Over Glasgow* (Sheed and Ward) an attractive mixture of solid shirt-sleeve realism and Celtic romance, and in Lucille Borden's *Starforth* (Macmillan) an excellent historical account of life in Tudor England.

The historical novel has received its usual emphasis. Kenneth Roberts' *Northwest Passage* (Doubleday, Doran) is as good as his other stories of early America, which is to say that it is as good as any historical fiction written today. His chief rival, Walter D. Edmonds, is absent from the lists this year. *The Sea of Grass* (Knopf), by Conrad Richter, is a lyrical narrative of pioneering in the southwest and *Buckskin Breeches* (Farrar and Rinehart), by Phil Stong, celebrates the log-fort days of the Middle West. Neither of these two stories are in the same class with *Northwest Passage*. New England, which dominated the field of historical fiction during the last several years, is represented by Esther Forbes' *Paradise* (Harcourt, Brace), which is only mildly successful, and by Frances Winwar's *Gallows Hill* (Holt), a slightly better than ordinary novel. Caroline Gordon's Civil War narrative, *None Shall Look Back* (Scribners), failed in comparison with those of her many competitors. The gallant cavalry leader of Charles I, Prince Rupert, lives again in Margaret Irwin's *The Stranger Prince* (Harcourt, Brace), and the clan wars of Scotland reecho in Constance Dodge's lively *Graham of Claverhouse* (Covici-Friede). The widely heralded *So Great a Man* (Harper), by David Pilgrim, is, as Father Talbot used to say, speckled, and George Cronyn's latest Elizabethan romance, *Mermaid Tavern* (Knight) is, in the good and bad sense of the word, Elizabethan.

When one turns to the body of fiction which deals with the contemporary American scene one is likely to be disappointed. Michael Foster's *American Dream* (Morrow) is brilliant in its episodes but unfortunate in its thesis. Josephine Johnson's *Jordanstown* (Simon and Schuster), wears the drab gray of naturalism and the sociological novel, and Josephine Lawrence's *The Sound of Running Feet* (Stokes) merely records the futility of young people who are waiting for their wealthier elders to die. Albert Halper's proletarian novel, *The Chute* (Viking), is a detailed indictment of conditions in factories and mail-order houses, but the author's own spiritual darkness is as complete as that of the order which he implicitly attacks. There is some superb local color in Paul Horgan's *A Lamp on the Plains* (Harper) but, unlike Willa Cather who has used the same background, little else besides. Another who wastes much of his substance on the desert air is Oliver LaFarge whose *The Enemy Gods* (Houghton Mifflin) sympathetically relates the relaxation of a Protestantized Indian boy into his native paganism.

There is some change in the weather when we consider the novelist's treatment of the problems arising in Europe. Perhaps distance makes one's judgment more charitable. Robert Briffault's *Europa in Limbo* (Scribners) is just as outrageously stupid as the author's previous volume, but *The*

*Square Peg* (Macmillan), by John Masefield, is an honest analysis of humanitarianism. A. J. Cronin's *The Citadel* (Little, Brown) exposes with considerable effectiveness the alleged evils of British medicine. This book is on a larger scale than Signe Toksvig's *Eve's Doctor* (Harcourt, Brace), a story set in Dublin and a little too angry to be good. Perhaps the best of all the British problem novels is E. M. Delafield's rather painful study of the evils of divorce in *Nothing Is Safe* (Harper).

What of the big names? There is Virginia Woolf's *The Years* (Harcourt, Brace), if one cares for a stream blown at zephyr speed through the consciousness of the British upper middle class, or Hugh Walpole's *John Cornelius* (Doubleday, Doran), if one cares for an artificial story which is presented in the form of a fictitious history of a writer of fiction, or Francis Brett Young's *They Seek a Country* (Reynal and Hitchcock), if one wishes to follow the trek of the Boers through South Africa. Louis Bromfield sets his current novel *The Rains Came* (Harper) in India. Despite its exotic background *The Rains Came* is just as conventional as James Hilton's sentimental story of the doctor, the wife who does not understand, and the nurse who does in *We Are Not Alone* (Little, Brown). *The East Wind of Love* (Dodd, Mead), Compton Mackenzie's sequel to *The South Wind of Love*, brings the hero John Ogilvie through the World War with just as many adventures, amorous and otherwise, as the speckled first volume. Although the perennials of H. G. Wells failed to bloom and although Somerset Maugham's *Theatre* (Doubleday, Doran) veered close to Vicki Baum, *Pipe All Hands* (Harper), by H. M. Tomlinson, saves the day for the older generation.

Some writers carry on in time honored patterns which never fail to please their readers and to irritate a certain type of critic. One of them is P. G. Wodehouse whose *Summer Moonshine* and *Crime Wave at Blandings* (Doubleday, Doran) have plots as old as comedy itself, and dialogue that tickles the mind. Ernest Bramah is back with *The Return of Kai Lung* (Sheridan House), while Booth Tarkington has (temporarily we hope) abandoned little Orvie and his curly-haired cousin Marie from Kansas City for a gargantuan art dealer in *Rumbin Galleries* (Doubleday, Doran).

The listing above is, naturally, incomplete. Many books deserve more than passing mention and many more deserve only a very qualified approval. One book tempts us to walk the plank and proffer unsolicited advice that you try it, and that is *Brother Petroc's Return*. FRANCIS X. CONNOLLY

**TWELVE BEST BOOKS  
DELIVERED BY THE POSTMAN  
ONE EACH MONTH**

Solve your reading and buying problem  
by communicating with the Secretary

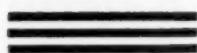
**CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB**

140 East 45th Street

New York, N. Y.



# RELIGIOUS



PUBLISHED, as is this Survey, a month before Christmas, the list is suggestive for those who are intending to do some shopping. It is not a comprehensive list; under our space limitations a selection has to be made, many worthy books will have to be omitted and to all, our reference will be necessarily brief. Some noticeable additions to ascetical literature, outside the field of biography—which is treated later—have appeared during the year past.

The *Imitation* like the Bible is a perennial. It always makes an appropriate gift, is never read through, since of its nature it is a book to be taken up, a chapter or so read, and put aside to be resumed later. Since the discovery of the Lübeck Netherlandish text in 1921, new interest attaches to the book. *The Following of Christ*, by Gerard Groote, is and is not Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation*. For the first time in English we are provided with chapters of the author, missing in the older work. As it comes from the artistic workmanship of the America Press, artistically printed and bound, a fit casket for treasure trove, Gerard Groote's *The Following of Christ*, translated by Joseph Malaise, S.J., makes a natural gift book.

With *The Holy Ghost* (Sheed and Ward), Dr. Leen, C.S.Sp., has completed a noted trilogy of spiritual books. Characterized by the same excellence of precision, solidity and clarity as his two others, the layman will herein find his own language though the subject penetrates to the heart of the Trinity. It is a book for the educated layman and its subject is, as the author shows in the *Introduction*, an effective buffer against the inroads of Communism. Father Connolly has given us in *St. Bernard on the Love of God* (Spiritual Book Associates) a classic in content and in the chaste English medium the translator has given it. *Purgatory* (Burns, Oates) is corrective of much prevalent rigorism on the subject and is doctrinally comforting to all sinners in the Christian optimism it reflects, reinforced by the testimony of writers from the primitive Church to today. I think Religious will especially be cheered by it.

There are two books for priests and seminarians complementary, in a sense, one to the other. *The Priesthood in a Changing World* (Kenedy), by Dr. John A. O'Brien, brings to the priest's aid not alone the author's ripe experience but the contribution of brother priests and even the laity, representing "a wealth of viewpoints and a pooling of resources." While Dr. Francis Walsh, in *The Priest, God and the World* (Benziger), develops the qualities of mind, heart and training needed in the priestly apostle, commenting on the fine Encyclical of Pius X on the Priesthood. Priests and others interested in convert books as well as all acquainted with the charm of writing of Frederick Joseph Kinsman will

want to acquire the *Reveries of a Hermit* (Longmans) of the same attractive and gracious writer.

Father James Daly, after too long an absence, returns to cheer, comfort and charm us by the sanity and solidity of his lessons, as well as by the skill and eloquence of his literary craftsmanship. Put *The Road to Peace* (Bruce) on your "must" list and enjoy the writer's untroubled glance at life's problems. Father Arendzen has the gift of popularizing, bringing lucidity, freshness and vitality to abstruse questions. *The Holy Trinity* (Sheed and Ward) brings the mystery to the layman's ken. It is useful for priests and laymen. The two companion volumes of the late Msgr. Kerby, whose chaste diction and deep insight into the sacerdotal life have endeared him to many priests, will serve to make his contribution lasting. *Prophets of the Better Hope* and *The Considerate Priest* (Dolphin Press) form a collection of clerical essays that appeared at intervals in *The Ecclesiastical Review*. Father Raab's *Twenty Ecumenical Councils* (Longmans) and Father Schroeder's *Disciplinary Decrees of the General Councils* (Herder) are serviceable additions to the seminary and sacerdotal library.

Meditation books are not lacking. The three handy volumes of *Meditations on the Gospels* (Sheed and Ward) of the Hungarian prelate, Ottokar Prohaszka, contain the jottings and notes salvaged from the prayers of a very active life and seem to satisfy nicely the needs and tastes of the American priest and seminarian. *The Year of Our Lord* (Kenedy) provides beautiful rich material on the liturgy of each Sunday of the year and is suitable for priests and Religious who wish to link their prayer of rule or choice with the Church's own prayer. Lovers of liturgical prayer, ever on the increase, have their need further met by the Benedictine nuns of Stanbrook in the Autumn portion of *The Roman Breviary* (Benziger). The Mass Collects contain the keynote of the great Sacrifice as well as "some of the most magnificent literature in the world." In *The Prayers of the Missal* (Sheed and Ward) Father Martindale explains them simply and thus puts the reader—when they are read over beforehand—in proper key for Sunday Mass.

Father LeBuffe is ready with the twenty-second in the series of *My Changeless Friend* (Apostleship of Prayer) to help all that they "may be able to comprehend with all the Saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth" of Divine Love, as revealed in fresh reflections on pregnant texts from Scripture. Father McSorley comes to help our hesitant steps on the road to mental prayer by opening in *Think and Pray* (Longmans) his own prayerful heart, sharing his own best thoughts on some of the mysteries and personages of our holy religion. Another example of "praying out loud" for us is furnished by Father Ambrozzi in a small book, *The Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius Made Easier* (Coldwell, London). Selections from the principal Ignatian exercises form the subject. Finally, *Prayer in Faith* (Longmans), of Mother Stuart, gives us beautiful thoughts for liturgical seasons and feasts from Pentecost to Advent.

The busy priest is not neglected in *Sermon Books*.

# New and Recent Books---Ideal Christmas Gifts

## BIOGRAPHIES

### BLESSED JOSEPH PIGNATELLI, S.J.

A Great Leader in a Great Crisis. By Magr. D. A. Hanly, P.A. "...extremely well devised and well written."—*Father Talbot, S.J.* Net, \$2.75. Postage, 10c.

### OUR KATERI

The Story of the Life of Kateri Tekakwitha. By Sr. Mary Immaculata, O.P., of Maryknoll Convent, N. Y. Foreword by Rev. John J. Wynne, S.J. In novelized yet truly historical form. Net, \$1.50. Postage, 10c.

### SISTER MARY JOHN BERCHMANS

Religious of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. By Sr. Mary Edwin, R.H.N. Foreword by Rev. D. Giacobbi, S.J. New Revised Edition with Preface by Rev. Richard A. Gleason, S.J. Net, \$1.75. Postage, 10c.

### A LIGHT SHINING

The Life and Letters of Mother Joseph Dallmer, Ursuline of the Roman Union. By S. M. Johnston. Preface by Rev. Albert Muntsch, S.J. Full of human as well as spiritual interest. Net, \$3.50. Postage, 15c.

### LITTLE CATHERINE OF THE

#### MIRACULOUS MEDAL

The Children's Life of Blessed Catherine Labouré. By a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph's College, Emmitsburg, Md. A really compelling story. Net, \$1.75. Postage, 10c.

### ELLEN EWING

Wife of General Sherman. By Anna McAllister. "Ellen Ewing" bears all the evidences of feminine outlook in the best acceptance of the word."—*Ave Maria.* Net, \$3.50. Postage, 15c.

### SISTER MIRIAM TERESA (1901-1927)

By a Sister of Charity, Convent of St. Elizabeth, Convent, N. J. Foreword by Very Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Whalen. Introduction by Dr. James J. Walsh. Net, \$2.00. Postage, 10c.

## BOOKS OF DEVOTION

### WITH HEART AND MIND

By Sister Helen Madeleine, S.N.D. de Namur. Foreword by Father LeBuffe, S.J. A devotional book of a new and modern type for all those who would meditate simply. Net, \$1.25. Postage, 10c.

### JOSEPH THE JUST

A Book of Little Meditations, Devotions, and Prayers to St. Joseph. By the Sisters of St. Joseph, Boston, Mass. Contains a short spiritual reading for every day of the month. Net, \$1.00. Postage, 10c.

### GRACE OF THE WAY

Little Spiritual Studies in Daily Life. By Sister Monica, Ph.D., Ursuline of Brown Co., Ohio. Little vignettes of various scenes in the Life of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother. Net, \$1.50. Postage, 10c.

### MY CHILD LIVES

By Rev. Alph. L. Memmesheimer. A solace for those parents who have lost one of their children by death. Consoling thoughts from the Liturgy, Scriptures and lives of Saints. Net, \$1.25. Postage, 10c.

### SONGS OF SION

Selections from the Book of Psalms. By Rev. John Laux, M.A. Presents the Psalms so that they are intelligible and have a clear meaning to the modern reader. Net, \$1.50. Postage, 10c.

### THREE SHEAVES OF RELIGIOUS VERSE

By Rev. John Rauscher, S.M., Author of "The Mysteries of the Rosary." Poems on the Litany of Our Lady, on various subjects, and on the Litany of the Holy Name. Net, \$1.00. Postage, 10c.

### THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

In Latin and English. By Rev. F. X. Lasance, Author of "My Prayer Book," and Rev. Francis Augustine Walsh, O.S.B. With a study plan "Read Mass with the Priest," by Rev. William R. Kelly, Ph.D. From retail, \$3.25.

### THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Ladder of Sanctity. Meditations by Dom Eugène Vandeur, Benedictine Monk. Translated from the French by Clara Morris Rumball, M.A. Based on the Liturgy of the Mass. Net, \$2.00. Postage, 10c.

### CHRIST AND LITTLENESS

By Rev. James F. Cassidy, B.A. The author stresses the way of littleness pursued by Christ from Bethlehem to Calvary. The style of writing is simple and direct. Net, \$1.50. Postage, 10c.

### PATIENCE

Thoughts on the Patient Endurance of Sorrows and Sufferings. Compiled and Edited by Rev. F. X. Lasance, Author of "My Prayer Book." A companion volume to "Self-Conquest." Net, \$1.00. Postage, 10c.

## BOOKS OF INSTRUCTION

### SAINTS TO HELP THE SICK AND DYING

With Appropriate Prayers and Reflections. By Rev. Edmund J. Goebel, Ph.D., Diocesan Visitor of Schools, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Net, \$1.50. Postage, 10c.

### CATHOLIC TRUTH IN SURVEY

A Manual of Religious Instruction for the Use of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Classes at the Secondary School Level of Learning. By Rev. Ferdinand C. Falque, S.T.B. Vol. I. "God Our Creator." List, cloth, 60c; paper, 52c.

### G. K. CHESTERTON'S EVANGEL

By Sister Mary Virginia, S.N.D., Ph.D. The author examines Chesterton's writings, appraises him as a private character and dwells on his humility and simplicity. Net, \$1.75. Postage, 10c.

### THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO

By Very Rev. Francis Augustine Walsh, O.S.B., Ph.D. Of special value to all those interested in social and interracial justice. Net, 15c. Postage, 5c.

### CATECHETICS IN THE SEMINARY

#### CURRICULUM

By Very Rev. Francis Augustine Walsh, O.S.B., Ph.D. These outlines and suggestions will be of interest to all who teach the Catechism. Net, 25c. Postage, 5c.

### STORIES OF DOMINICAN SAINTS

#### FOR CHILDREN

By the Sisters of St. Dominic, Mount St. Mary's-on-the-Hudson, Newburgh, N. Y. According to the Thorndyke Word List, this book is suited to children of the elementary grades. List price, 32c.

### A HISTORY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

#### IN THE UNITED STATES

A Textbook for Normal Schools and Teachers' Colleges. By Very Rev. J. A. Burns, C.S.C., Ph.D. and Bernard J. Kohlbrener, M.A. Introduction by Most Rev. John B. Peterson. List, \$3.20.

### SPURS TO CONVERSION

By Rev. Edward M. Betowski, St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N. Y. Preface by His Excellency, John T. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, Ind. Sermon schemes to aid in winning converts. Net, \$2.75. Postage, 10c.

### THE PRIEST, GOD AND THE WORLD

A Commentary on the Encyclical, Letter of His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, "On the Catholic Priesthood" (Ad Catholici Sacerdotii), December, 1935. By Dom Francis Augustine Walsh, Ph.D. Net, \$1.50. Postage, 10c.

### THE PRIEST

A Retreat for Parish Priests. Translated from the French of Abbé Planus. By Rev. John L. Zoph. Preface by His Excellency, Most Rev. John J. Mitty, D.D., Archbishop of San Francisco. Net, \$2.75. Postage, 10c.

### A HANDBOOK OF THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

By Rev. John S. Middleton, Ph.D. This book is to serve pastors and others in charge of Confraternity work as an aid in its organization and management. Net, paper, 45c, postage, 5c; cloth \$1.00, postage, 10c.

A Study of Catholic Secondary Education During the Colonial Period Up to the First Plenary Council of Baltimore, 1852

By Rev. Edmund J. Goebel, Ph.D. A study of the foundation of all education in the United States. Net, \$2.50. Postage, 10c.

## NOVELS

### AS THE MORNING RISING

By Sigrid Van Sweringen. "The girl who later became the famous Mother Seton lives in these pages—lives against a background picturesque and vital."—*Brother Leo.* Net, \$2.50. Postage, 10c.

### THE FLYING MISSIONARY

How a Modern Apostle of Christ Spreads the Gospel. By Rev. Paul Schulte, O.M.I. Read, and accompany Father Schulte in spirit on his flying missionary trips in Africa. Net, \$2.00. Postage, 10c.

## JUVENILES

### THE RED FLAME OF SOUND

By Rev. Francis E. Benz, A.M., S.T.B. Affords all the adventures a normal boy or girl can stand for a long time. Net, \$1.25. Postage, 10c.

### THE MYSTERY OF ST. REGIS

By Rev. Neil Beyton, S.J. Crammed, from beginning to end, with the thrilling adventures of two Silver Fox Scouts. Net, \$1.50. Postage, 10c.

1792

BENZIGER BROTHERS

1937

NEW YORK, 24-26 PARK PLACE (One block north of Barclay Street)  
SAN FRANCISCO, 756 Mission Street (Next Door to St. Patrick's Church)  
BOSTON, 104 Chauncy Street

CHICAGO, 285-287 W. WASHINGTON STREET  
CINCINNATI, 429 MAIN STREET



*Discourses on Grace and the Sacraments* (Wagner) is another series of sermon outlines by Father Crock, featured by homely illustrations, with an eye to the needs and abilities of the hearer. Desirous of helping the liturgical awakening, Father Grace in *The Sacrifice of Christ* (Wagner) explains in easy, familiar language an important dogma. Another book on the Mass helpful for meditation and sermon material is *The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass* (Benziger), a translation from the French of the Benedictine, Dom Vandeur. *Spurs to Conversion* (Benziger) is what its title implies, a stimulating help to the convert-maker. It provides suitable matter for a study or Catholic Action group on this very important theme. Bishop Swint, in intimate touch with the non-Catholic mind, is well equipped to show awareness of its viewpoint and solve its doubts in *Christ as Organizer of the Church* (Bruce).

There are three good books on marriage that should appeal to priest and people. Every layman should have a knowledge of the nature of Christian marriage and the laws that govern it. *Why Catholic Marriage Is Different* (Herder) gives us in simple language an explanation of the laws and duties of Catholics towards this important Sacrament. *Morals and Marriage* (Longmans) is specially commended to the prospective groom and bride, who will be soundly instructed in the art of fulfilling reverently and with dignity the act that is the deepest expression of human friendship. *Wedlock* (Sheed and Ward), by Father Martindale, prefers to concentrate on the nature, excellence and supernatural side of Christian Marriage.

Father John C. Cruden gives us a needed, high-class and, under one aspect, a novel book on the Mystical Body. *The Mystical Christ* (Herder) calls attention to the need of emphasizing the social aspects of the doctrine and to the danger of a separation by no means sanctioned by traditional teaching. This point needs emphasis if we consider the errors of our day. Father James, the active Irish Capuchin, in a small volume, *Where Dweldest Thou?* (Herder), proves the true secret of the Christian life lies in an intimate union of the soul with Christ.

Cast in a fiction form, and very interesting, too, is *Problem Island* (St. Anthony Guild), by Most Rev. Francis C. Kelley, D.D. The apologetic value of the book strikes us as more important than the fictional element. The "problem" is that of determining whether or not a group of children, exiled on an island, would of themselves discover the existence of God.

WILLIAM J. BENN

#### THE SPIRITUAL BOOK ASSOCIATES

is a book-of-the-month club that specializes in religious books and forwards ten a year to you at the lowest possible rate.

415 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IDEOLOGY



REVIEWING the year's output in the field of government, sociology and economics is an exacting task, if human interest is concerned. In every other field strenuous efforts are put forth to appeal to the reader's imagination. History and biography are not contented with a bald statement of fact but take on the trappings of the novel and the drama. Even ascetical and devotional works must use a certain psychology if they are to do more than adorn the dealer's bookshelves. But the area of human sciences is still under the spell caused by transferring to the social and economic field the method of quantitative measurement so brilliantly inaugurated in the field of the physical sciences by Descartes, the tercentennial of whose *Discourse On Method* was one of the big events of 1937.

In the socio-economic field, the reader's brains and unbounded zeal for truth and social betterment are supposed to take the place of literary condiments. When a work appears like the two "Middletowns," it forms an agreeable exception.

Of the works on sociology that appeared in 1937 or the latter part of 1936 two are of a monumental character that provide matter for extended study. One of these is *The Reorganization of Social Economics* (Bruce), which the Rev. Bernard Dempsey, S.J., of St. Louis University, translated with painstaking care from the German of the Rev. Oswald von Nell-Breuning, S.J. The other is Pitirim Sorokin's *Social and Cultural Dynamics* (American Book).

Sorokin's three volumes are distinguished by their explicit repudiation of the materialistic interpretation of history. The Russian sociologist's frontal attack is upon the crudely evolutionary concept, which sees history as a perpetual "linear" progress from lesser to greater, from poorer to richer, from worse to better. There are some surprising omissions among his historical sequences, the chief of these being practically the whole of the Bible story, Old and New Testament. But whether his positive conclusions do or do not flow from his premises, he skilfully unmask a great number of widely accepted errors, and the material that he has amassed is original and highly instructive.

Von Nell-Breuning's work approaches being an official commentary upon the Encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*. The most significant part of this work is the careful explanation of what the Pope really means by the so-called vocational groups, the constituent elements of that corporative economic and social system which is not to be confused with the corporative state. The author shows how much is implied by the Pope's phraseology, and how definitely the Papal concept gets away from camouflaged class-war ideology in treating of the relations between employer and employee.

If you wish a brief, orderly and clear exposition

## Christmas Suggestions

**Frs. Callan and McHugh, Editors** **The New Testament.** This new translation by the distinguished scholar Father Spencer is the first Catholic translation from the original Greek to be made in America. Not only beautiful in format, it is inspirational in context and ideal for reading, meditation, and study. Indispensable to the priest and layman. "Worthy of the highest commendation."  
—*The Homiletic and Pastoral Review*. \$4.50

**Dom Virgil Michel** **The Liturgy of the Church.** In this complete expository survey, we see the Liturgy not as a mere collection of formal regulations, but as the very core of the spiritual life and activity of the Church. Father Michel explains the meaning of all matters liturgical. "Everyone will find some enlightenment from its perusal."—*The Boston Transcript*. \$2.50

**Fr. Paul H. Furfey** **Three Theories of Society.** What are the ideals which motivate present-day civilization? After discussing various ideals, Dr. Furfey shows how striving to attain the proper ideal raises men from the level of the purely materialistic to that of the spiritual. \$2.00.

**Fr. Neil Boyton** **A Yankee Xavier.** This is a fascinating account, written from first-hand knowledge, of the young Jesuit missionary, Henry McGlinchey, who, during the period of his short life, won the respect of his young Hindoo students and instilled in them a Christian spirit. \$1.50.

**Georges Bernanos** **The Diary of a Country Priest.** This excellent novel tells, in the form of an imaginary diary, the life story of a young French country priest—a man of humble origin with a great love for mankind. "Unusually touching and beautiful . . . makes the reader breathless with intensity."—*Commonweal*. \$2.75.

**Lucille P. Borden** **Starforth.** Again this noted author has written a tale full of color and dramatic incident with characters who deeply engage the reader's sympathy. While the story is one of thrilling adventure and romance, running through it is a spirit of poetry and high idealism. \$2.50.

**The Small Missal**  
Contains the proper of the Mass for all Sundays and principal Feasts of the year, the rite of Benediction, and other devotions. Indispensable to the priest and layman.  
Cloth, 90 cents; leather, \$2.40.

**The Book of Saints**  
Contains facts on the lives of more than 9,000 Servants of God canonized by the Catholic Church. Unsurpassed for completeness, reliability, and usefulness. \$3.00.

*At all bookstores or from*

**The Macmillan Company...60 Fifth Ave., New York**

CHICAGO

ATLANTA

DALLAS

SAN FRANCISCO

BOSTON



of the main ideas of the social Encyclicals in popular language, by all means send for the attractive little volume *Christian Social Reconstruction* (Bruce), by Dom Virgil Michel, O.S.B. It is an excellent manual whereby the Catholic layman can orient himself on the pivotal topics of social justice, private ownership, wages and labor, dictatorship of finance, Socialism, the state and economics, the corporative order, social regeneration and the sadly neglected matter of the common good. Dom Virgil has the precious gift of exposition seen in its perfection in his liturgical review, *Orate Fratres*, where, incidentally, you will find many a light shed on the supernatural aspects of the social problem.

From an historical angle, the Rev. Albert Muntzsch, S.J., in *The Church and Civilization* (Bruce), shows the Church through the centuries as a force for social peace and progress. Father Muntzsch's apologetic is a companion in our day and country of the famous work of the Spaniard, Balmes, who combated shallow early nineteenth-century rationalism by exposition of the theme.

Harold U. Faulkner's scholarly *American Political and Social History* (Crofts) can be profitably read in connection with the work of the Rev. Samuel Knox Wilson, S.J., of some years back, on this same line; also with Joseph Schaefer's *Social History of American Agriculture* (Macmillan), which recalls the successive waves of our agricultural frontiers, their heroes, hopes and achievements. If you wish to orient yourself on the matter of race relations in the United States and the Catholic doctrine thereon, you will find material for study in *Interracial Justice* (America Press), by John LaFarge, S.J. *Christ, Color and Communism* (Josephite Press), by John T. Gillard, S.S.J., treats of the threat that Communism holds for the Negro, while *The Tenth Man* (Dolphin), by Edward F. Murphy, S.S.J., views the matter from a Southern window. *Middletown In Transition* (Harcourt, Brace), by Robert and Helen Lynd, is a ripened sequel to their earlier work. It pictures the changes that have occurred in a decade's time, discusses young people's opportunities and what business is thinking about in a fairly typical American town.

Economics hits us in two ways: there is your own and there is the nation's business. As an aid to laymen, Richard Dana Skinner exchanged his literary for his financial ermine this year and wrote *Seven Kinds of Inflation* (McGraw-Hill). He gives useful information as to how the wheels go around, and proposes that we abolish credit. Mr. Skinner also deals with big national policies, and has the arguments. David F. Jordan, in *Managing Personal Finances* (Prentice-Hall), gives practical advice that is needed to keep widows and orphans from being gypped by fate or fakers; and Roger Babson in *If Inflation Comes* (Stokes) advises investors from the standpoint of eminent safety.

Finance as a nation's problem is discussed historically in *Development of American Business and Banking Thought* (Longmans), by Charles C. Chapman, S.J. Dr. Chapman shows, among other things, the changes that our history brought in the way that volume of credit was controlled, the growth

and change in the concept of the Federal Reserve System. Other treatises in this field which have been discussed in AMERICA during the past months are: *America's Experience as a Creditor Nation* (Prentice-Hall), by J. T. Madden and others, which discusses international debts from a rather definitely British standpoint; *Central and Local Finance in Germany and England* (Columbia University), by Mabel Newcomer; and *National Income and Outlay* (Macmillan), by Colin Clark.

Economic topics are treated in *False Security* (Equinox), by Bernard J. Reis, which warns against betrayal of investment trusts and shows an interesting sympathy for the organic concept of society; and *A Declaration of Interdependence* (Norton), by H. A. Overstreet, which opposes Communism and Fascism, and advocates the American way, based upon natural rights. You will find these rights linked up with the American Constitution on the one hand and our Catholic ethical traditions on the other in *Thomistic Interpretation of Civic Rights* (Dayton University), by Joseph V. Trunk, S.M.; while William H. Murray's *Rights of Americans Under the Constitution of Our Federal Republic* (Meador) gives accurate and practical information.

The critique of Communism, as well as the true picture of current events in reply to the floods of Communist and Popular Front propaganda, is growing more frequent and insistent. Outstanding contributions to this field during the past year are such works as: André Gide's *Return From The U.S.S.R.* (Knopf); *Christianity and Communism* (Marshall Jones), by Dean Inge, M. C. D'Arcy and others; *Assignment in Utopia* (Harcourt, Brace), by Eugene Lyons, dealing with Soviet Russia; *Collectivism* (Macmillan), by W. H. Chamberlin, in which the well-known authority on Russian economic conditions exposes Communism and Fascism alike; *Proletarian Journey* (Hillman-Curl), by Fred E. Beal, one of the famous "Gastonia martyrs."

Waldemar Gurian's *Hitler And The Christians* (Sheed and Ward) gives the clue, in terms of recent history, to the Nazi-Church situation; while *Germany's New Religion* (Abingdon), by T. S. K. Scott-Craig, dramatizes the religious conflict by juxtaposing a statement by a Neo-Pagan, a Protestant and a Catholic, each. *The Philosophy of Fascism* (Chicago: Dante Aleghieri Society), by Mario Palmieri, is a naively enthusiastic exposition for American readers of the Fascist totalitarian assumption of all spiritual values for the state; while British readers are warned against dictators in *The Story of Dictatorship* (Dutton), by E. Kellert, M.A. *The Armaments Year Book, 1936* (Columbia University), issued by the League of Nations, is a mine of information as to what democracies and dictatorships alike are doing to pile up munitions and armies; while Philip Noel-Baker's *The Private Manufacture of Armaments* (Oxford University) tells, in documented fashion, the gruesome story of the merchants of death. The extent of their gains is related in *The Profits of War* (Dutton), by Richard Lewinsohn. The forces that corrode liberty are brilliantly analyzed in *Anarchy and Hierarchy* (Macmillan). JOHN LAFARGE



**NOTES  
ON  
BOOKS  
from**

**LONGMANS, GREEN & CO. ←**

*A Christmas Check List for varied tastes and needs*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A REPORTER AT THE PAPAL COURT</b><br/>by Thomas B. Morgan. A newspaperman's book about the Vatican. 309 pages. Illustrated. \$3.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>SORROW BUILT A BRIDGE</b><br/>by Katherine Burton. Nathaniel Hawthorne's favorite daughter. "Among the genuinely dramatic personal chronicles of our time."—<i>N. Y. Times</i>. 288 pages. \$2.50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>CHILD OF LIGHT</b><br/>by Viola Garvin. Delightful romance by a member of a great Anglo-Irish writing family. 278 pages. \$2.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>AND THEN THE STORM</b><br/>by Sister M. Monica of the Brown County Ursulines. "As a Catholic nun she looks at Spain from the religious point of view, but the reactionary will find little support in these pages."—<i>N. Y. Times</i>. 238 pages. \$2.50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>THE LIFE OF JESUS</b><br/>by François Mauriac. An answer to Renan. Illustrated with woodcuts. 270 pages. \$2.50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>BARON VON HUGEL</b><br/>by Abbé Nedoncelle. Casting new light upon a greatly misunderstood figure. 225 pages. \$3.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>LEO XIII AND OUR TIMES</b><br/>by René Fulöp-Miller. Portrait of a great Pope. 202 pages. \$2.50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>MIND AND THE MYSTERY</b><br/>by C. J. Eustace. A restatement of scholastic philosophy for the layman. 334 pages. \$2.50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A PAPAL CHAMBERLAIN</b><br/>by Francis MacNutt, edited by John J. Donovan. Witty and fascinating memoirs of a chamberlain to two Popes. 358 pages. Illustrated. \$3.50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>CATHERINE TEKAKWITHA</b><br/>by Daniel Sargent. Catherine the Christian and Tekakwitha the Indian admirably portrayed. 246 pages. \$2.00</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>I REMEMBER MAYNOOTH</b><br/>by Don Boyne. A book to warm the heart of many an ex-student of the famous seminary. 142 pages. \$2.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART IN NORTH AMERICA</b><br/>by Louise Callan. Alumnae and members of the Order will want this. 806 pages. \$5.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>CHRISTIAN MORALS</b><br/>by M. C. D'Arcy, S.J. "Some such clear statement has long been needed of the Christian position and some such trenchant criticism of popular fallacies."—<i>London Times</i>. 205 pages. \$2.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>LUCIFER AT LARGE</b><br/>by C. John McCole. Brilliant estimate from the Catholic viewpoint of modern American writers—Theodore Dreiser, Sherwood Anderson, Ernest Hemingway and others. 329 pages. \$3.00</p> |
|--|---|

*For Children:*

- ☐ **ABOUT JESUS, SON OF GOD AND SON OF MARY**  
by M. M. Illustrated by "Robin." Scenes from the life of Our Lord with pictures that will please the smallest people. 64 pages. 90¢ in boards; paper 45¢
- ☐ **A CHILD'S RULE OF LIFE**  
by Monsignor Robert Hugh Benson. Printed in red and black and illustrated by Gabriel Pippet. 25 pages. Paper. .40
- ☐ **FILIPPO THE JONGLEUR**  
by H. S. Downes. A romance of Franciscan times. 239 pages. \$2.00
- ☐ **DRAGON TREASURE**  
by Rt. Rev. Adolph Paschang. Illustrated by Kurt Wiese. A story of a Chinese boy and a young American captured by bandits. 265 pages. \$2.00

*Check this list and take it to your Local Catholic Bookstore*

**LONGMANS, GREEN & CO.**

**114 Fifth Avenue, New York**



# BIOGRAPHY



TURNING to the American biographies, I choose at random Nathan Schachner's carefully elaborated *Aaron Burr* (Stokes). Jefferson thought Burr a traitor, but forthright old John Adams confided to his diary that Burr "must be an Idiot or a Lunatic" if he engaged in treasonable practices, and he had never considered Burr to be a fool. Mr. Schachner instructs and entertains us, but at the end of the volume, I am certainly still in the dark as to what Aaron Burr did on that now famous Western trip.

Burr naturally links with Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson. In his *Henry Clay, Spokesman of the New West* (Houghton Mifflin), Bernard Mayo gives us the first of a projected three-volume biography, covering one of the most absorbingly interesting periods in American history. If the remaining volumes maintain the level of the first, I confidently predict that Mr. Mayo will write the long-awaited authoritative life of Clay. Of lower rank as an historical essay, yet useful, is *Andrew Jackson* (Bobbs, Merrill), by Marquis James, the second volume, I assume, in a series of three. Many of its bright and gossippy 500 pages (exclusive of the excellent bibliography and index) might have been cut without loss. Mr. James finds some new evidence against the Bank which Taney and Jackson overlooked, but gives us little else of importance that is not already known.

Next on my list are two biographies that revive old controversies and will probably kindle new flames, *The Great Leveler* (Stackpole), a life of Thaddeus Stevens, by T. F. Woodley, and *Jefferson Davis* (Harper), in two volumes, by Robert McElroy. When Mr. Woodley admits that to Stevens we owe the horrors of the misnamed "Reconstruction Period," he takes the hard way of defending his hero. When he further concedes that at the top of his career in Congress, Stevens championed policies that would have destroyed the Supreme Court and invalidated the constitutional theory of American government, he makes his hard way a blocked way.

Taking up the life of Davis, it is evident from the review in the *New York Times* that for some Dr. McElroy has lost his toil and his oil. To these sturdy folk, Jeff Davis is a scamp, and there's an end on't. Dr. McElroy's work is not perfect, but it is the best that has yet appeared, and through the exhaustive list of references he can be checked at every stage. His discussion of the relations of Davis with Lee quickens an expectation left unsatisfied, for it fails to answer, in my judgment, the old criticism that the President took advantage of Lee's too blind obedience to enforce his military views on the greatest captain of the age. The pages which show why the Government never dared bring Davis to trial are perhaps the best.

Ray Stannard Baker continues his *Woodrow Wilson* (Doubleday, Doran) and in the sixth volume, probably the best of the series, brings us to that fateful day in April, 1918. The real test of Mr. Baker's skill is yet to come.

Finally I must list for special approbation Katherine Burton's *Sorrow Built a Bridge* (Longmans), a life of Mother Alphonsa, Nathaniel Hawthorne's daughter.

PAUL L. BLAKELY

BIOGRAPHIES poured from the presses. Mass production in the biographical field has begun to vie with the mass production of highly geared industries. Moderns somehow or other feel that a nice, new 1937 biography is bound to be superior to an old 1930 or 1898 model, just as their shiny, streamlined cars are superior to the wheezy autos of yesteryears. Sad though it be to say it, in the biographical field the models of the long ago are often the best.

Not that the year 1937 has failed to produce some noteworthy models. It has: more indeed than we can include in this necessarily brief summation. This survey is limited to foreign biographies. Some portraits of political personages are worthy of attention, among them that of *Arthur James Balfour*, 2 Vol. (Putnam), by Blanche E. C. Dugdale. Mrs. Dugdale, Balfour's favorite niece, was especially selected and carefully coached for the job, which she has done very well. Her efforts yield a fascinating story of the long period of English history in which her uncle played an influential role. While "Bloody Balfour," so-called because of his association with British misrule in Ireland, will scarcely be included among the great English premiers, nevertheless this biography is an important one. And it is likewise extremely interesting.

Two tragic figures are well pencilled. *King Edward VIII* (Lippincott), by Hector Bolitho, tells the story of the young man who was more at ease in the company of a carefree, cocktail crowd than in more sedate circles. In *Nicholas II* (Funk and Wagnalls), by Mohammed Essad-Bey, we see the Russian stage on which the last of the Romanoffs moved. We see the medicine men, like Rasputin, and the principal figures of the era as Nicholas and his family creep on to their dreadful destiny.

Still another tragic figure of a different age greets the eye. *Phantom King* (Appleton-Century), by Hildegard Hawthorne, grand-daughter of Nathaniel, unveils the pathetic life of the son of the Eagle, the offspring of Napoleon's marriage with Marie Louise of Austria.

An epic story is being told and retold. A wizard of the air sent a message across the English Channel in 1899 without the use of wires. As the century turned, he signalled to a far-off continent without one wire. "Wireless" had arrived. It has radically altered the daily lives of untold millions. *Marconi: The Man and His Wireless* (Macmillan), by Orrin E. Dunlap, Jr., relates the Marconi saga.

A charming, interesting, important work comes from a Spanish pen. *Memoirs of a Spanish Princess* (Norton), by H. R. H. the Infanta Eulalia. She is the daughter of Isabella II of Spain, aunt of Al-

fonso XIII, at home in the all the courts of Europe. Her Royal Highness reveals much of historical value concerning the Spain that has passed.

Did Marshal Ney escape from France, become a schoolmaster in North Carolina? Read *Marshal Ney: A Dual Life* (Stackpole), by LeGette Blythe, and make your own decision. The Napoleonic glory and then the retreat from Moscow are graphically portrayed. Twenty-two of the book's thirty-one chapters deal with the Marshal's life in Napoleonic France; the others dig up documents, tell of a North Carolina teacher named Peter Stuart Ney.

*Baron Friedrich Von Hügel* (Longmans), written by Maurice Nedoncelle, throws light on a somewhat puzzling historical personality. The Baron has often been classed with the Modernists. Abbé Nedoncelle paints him rather as a convinced Catholic, a bold and original thinker, who erred at times in resisting authority to hold off censures from his friends.

SACRED biography seems to have had a fallow year. Not entirely, however, for there was the *Life of Jesus* (Longmans), by the French Academician and novelist, François Mauriac. This is a book written on the margins of the Gospels. It portrays a Christ Who is harder than we like to conceive of, and yet the true Christ of love. And then, there was *The Life of Christ* (St. Anthony Guild), by Isidore O'Brien, O.F.M. This is a volume for seeking readers, cleared of abnormal problems and knotty technicalities. It is adapted for club-study. Pertinent to biography, though not of it, is *In Christ's Own Country* (Burns, Oates).

With the sub-title of "A Great Leader in a Great Crisis," Monsignor D. A. Hanly has written the first English life of *Blessed Joseph Pignatelli* (Benziger). The process of Blessed Joseph is moving rapidly, so that the book will be available when, but also if, we are soon hailing a new Saint Joseph.

Another saint that may be is *Damien the Leper* (Sheed and Ward). John Farrow, of movie fame, tells in vivid strokes the tragic, heroic, fascinating story of a man who had his faults but who suffered for Christ as did few men of the last century.

J. C. Kearns has composed an official, and yet very popular biography which delights the innumerable clients of the saintly Dominican lay brother, *Blessed Martin de Porres*, (Kenedy).

A young man became first a Catholic, then a priest, then the founder of the Knights of the Blessed Sacrament, then spent twenty years smoothing the way for late vocations. A bright little book, *Edmund Lester, S.J.* (Longmans), by Clement Tigar, is surely well worth reading. A young Flemish missionary journeyed to Bengal, achieved mass conversions which rocked the Catholic world. On one day he baptized 1,557 persons. It is all told in a swift-moving, graphic sketch, *Father Constant Lievens, S.J.* (Herder).

*Diversity in Holiness* (Sheed and Ward), by R. H. J. Steuart, S.J., sketches lives that were different in almost every respect except that of holiness. Butler's *Lives of the Saints* (Kenedy), as revised by Father Thurston, is brought up to June, the sixth volume in the series. JOHN A. TOOMEY

## FORDHAM UNIVERSITY PRESS

A Distinguished Author  
**HILAIRE BELLOC**

A Distinguished Book

# The CRISIS of CIVILIZATION

"Should be found in the hands of all who inherit the legacy of culture and religion."—AMERICA.

"It may not convert you, but it will make you think."—KNOXVILLE JOURNAL.

"'The Crisis of Civilization' is our own history told by one of our own great."—THE QUEEN'S WORK.

Pyroxylin Cloth—245 pages—\$2.50  
(Postpaid \$2.65)

## NEW IMPORTANT TEXT AND REFERENCE BOOKS

# I ALSO SEND YOU

(CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH)

By THOMAS H. MOORE, S.J.  
Professor of Religion, Fordham University

Pyroxylin Cloth—192 pages—\$1.50  
(Postpaid \$1.65)

# LIBERTY: ITS USE AND ABUSE

By IGNATIUS W. COX, S.J.  
Professor of Ethics, Fordham University

Vol. I—Principles of Ethics - - \$2.00  
Vol. II—Applied Ethics - - - \$2.25  
(Add 15c. postage)

# COSMOLOGY

By JOHN J. COLLIGAN, S.J.  
Professor of Metaphysics, Fordham University

Pyroxylin Cloth—95 pages—\$1.50  
(Postpaid \$1.65)

EAST FORDHAM ROAD, BRONX, NEW YORK





## For Lasting Christmas Joy Give These Bruce Books A MODERN GALAHAD

REV. ALBERT S. FOLEY, S.J.

A unique new biography of the young seventeenth-century Jesuit saint, John Berchmans. Before the reader's eye is unfolded scene after scene from Berchmans' life, each bound to each by an invisible thread to form at last a glorious picture of the making of the Saint.

\$2.50

## TWENTY ONE SAINTS

ALOYSIUS CROFT

The boy or girl fortunate enough to receive this book for Christmas will make the acquaintance of a group of appealing personalities. Men of action as well as men of God, they step from these pages, one after another, as exciting as any story-book hero and as human as one's best friend! Illustrated.

\$1.50



## BLACKROBE

REV. C. T. CORCORAN, S.J.

Nowhere in the vast gallery of the heroes of American history is there a nobler figure than that of Pere Marquette, the real hero of this vivid novel.

\$2.00

## LUTHER AND HIS WORKS

JOSEPH CLAYTON

Readers continue to praise the utter impartiality of this candid portrait of Luther. A fine gift for a biography-conscious friend.

\$2.50



## HIGH POINTS OF MEDIEVAL CULTURE

JAMES J. WALSH

Dr. Walsh focuses the probing light of scholarly research upon the Middle Ages to pick out the high points of medieval culture. A rare literary and cultural treat.

\$2.75

## THE CRUSADES

HILAIRE BELLOC

Hilaire Belloc at his best in a masterly interpretation of one of the world's most amazing endeavors. A book to add distinction to anybody's library.

\$3.00



At your bookstore, or direct from

**THE BRUCE PUBLISHING COMPANY**

201 MONTGOMERY BUILDING, MILWAUKEE, WIS.

# HISTORY



WAS it Ruskin who remarked that every time you read a worthless book there is a good book in the library which you failed to read? This thought can be developed further. At least, it suggests the futility of assembling a lengthy and indiscriminating catalog of historical works which saw the light, however briefly, in the year of Our Lord 1937. Bibliographers and research students will know where to look for titles and more titles, several score of which the hard-pressed writer has been tempted to submit for this *Book Survey Supplement*. Certainly, the list of worthless publications in almost any field would be a long one. And, of course, any reviewer knows how much easier it is to reject the majority of books than it is to recommend a few of them unreservedly.

But we must keep in mind the Christmas shopper, or more specifically, the shopper who will find it inconvenient to visit a first-class Catholic bookstore. To such we might whisper that the periodical announcements of the publishers can be had for the asking. We must also warn against the delusion that the best books are the most recent.

Fortunately, however, we can at this writing present to our readers a really worthwhile work in M. Louise Callan's scholarly and, at the same time, literary *Society of the Sacred Heart in North America* (Longmans). In this excellent book the author has told the story of a particular religious organization. Needless to say, the story could not have been told without portraying much of the epic sweep of the Church in America since the beginning of the nineteenth century.

A smaller volume, more general in character and covering a wider field is *A History of Catholic Education in the United States* (Benziger), by Very Rev. J. A. Burns, C.S.C. and Bernard J. Hohlbrenner. This book, in spite of a few scarcely avoidable defects, is the best, if not the only, survey of the subject we have. It is designed as a textbook.

Were we to list our Catholic Americana for 1937 in the order of merit, a high place would be accorded *The Church Founders of the Northwest: Loras and Cretin and Other Captains of Christ* (Bruce), by M. M. Hoffmann. This centenary memorial volume by the historian of the Archdiocese of Dubuque is a study, scientific and artistic, of the valiant missionary bishops and priests who faced the hardships of the frontier.

The Christmas shopper will very likely not be interested in the fact that some of the best American historiography is in the form of doctoral dissertations. Those of us, however, who dream of an adequate history of the Church in America know how indispensable will be the monographs on sectional topics now multiplying in our Graduate Schools. Three such monographs, if not more, have appeared this year under the direction of Msgr.

Guilday: Rev. Arthur J. Riley's *Catholicism in New England*; Sister M. Ramona Mattingly's *Catholic Church on the Kentucky Frontier*; and Sister M. Aquinata Martin's *Catholic Church on the Nebraska Frontier*. These should have at least a local appeal. A really superior dissertation is that of Rev. Richard J. Gabel, *Public Funds for Church and Private Schools* (Catholic University).

Among the non-Catholic works the first to deserve notice is *A History of American History* (Farrar and Rinehart), by Michael Kraus. The author is guilty of several rather glaring omissions, but the book should be in every college library. An outstanding work is that of C. M. Andrews, *The Colonial Period of American History* (Yale University, 3 vols.). *The Civil War and Reconstruction* (Heath), by J. G. Randall, has also won a place among the best books of the year, as has also *The American Civil War*, by Carl Russell Fish. There is considerable competition among the textbook makers. *The Federal Union, a History of the United States to 1865* (Houghton Mifflin), by John D. Hicks, has a smoothness and finish which have secured numerous adoptions in spite of the rival excellence of Morison and Comager's revised *Growth of the American Republic* (Oxford, 2 vols.). Harold U. Faulkner's *American Political and Social History* (Crofts) may also be mentioned.

Passing over to England, we find a number of books that can be recommended for their readability, at least. Such are *The Miracle of England* (Harper), by André Maurois; H. G. Collingwood's *Roman Britain* (Oxford); Godfrey Davies' *Early Stuarts* (Oxford); A. Berriedale Keith's *King and the Imperial Crown* (Longmans); and, for Edward's abdication and a panoramic view of English kings, *The Coronation Commentary* (Dodd), by G. P. Dennis. Superior to any of these is George Malcolm Young's very satisfactory *Victorian England: Portrait of an Age* (Oxford). A safe investment, which calls for no comment, would be *Sources of English Constitutional History* (Harper), by Carl Stephenson and F. G. Marcham.

Ireland's break with the British Empire is still a burning question, and it is hardly probable that any account of recent happenings will satisfy all Irishmen. Some light on the contemporary scene may be had from George A. O'Brien's *Four Green Fields* (Talbot), and E. O'Malley's *Army without Banners* (Houghton). Eric O'Brien's *Foundation of Australia* (Sheed and Ward) is a scholarly and frank study of the peculiar beginnings of the colony.

*Louis XV and His Times* (Cape), by Pierre Gaxotte, is a good book about a bad subject. *Louis XVI*

and *Marie Antoinette before the Revolution* (Putnam), by Nesta Webster, besides being a striking study of character, is a further amplification of her thesis that Freemasonry is the dark force behind modern upheavals. Auguste Saint-Aulaire, in his *Talleyrand* (Macmillan), wields a brilliant pen to portray the masterly diplomacy of the renegade.

Waldemar Gurian, in his *Hitler and the Christians* (Sheed and Ward), continues his task of clarifying the great issues of the day. He will serve as an excellent check on authors who are less sure in their interpretation of warring "isms." Henri Lichtenberger's *Third Reich* (Greystone) has been pronounced the best yet on Hitler's Germany. It has, however, obvious limitations on the religious side. George Sylvester Viereck's *Kaiser on Trial* (Greystone) is a clever *apologia* for Wilhelm II.

*The Poland of Pilsudski* (Allen and Unwin), by Robert Machray, is a good version of a story that is well worth knowing. Amid the sickening tide of propaganda from the Soviet "Paradise," one needs more guides of the type of William Henry Chamberlain. His *Collectivism: A False Utopia* (Macmillan), classified as Political Science, is good history.

As events in Spain become second-page news they become first-rate material for the historian. The Nationalist cause, recalling long centuries of the Reconquista, and the Liberal-Communist orgy, culminating several generations of bad government, demand historical treatment. Much of the resulting literature is, no doubt, ephemeral and flimsy; and some of it is vicious. Among the better books we should place *Unhappy Spain* (Louisiana State), by Pierre Crabitès, the best explanation of the past hundred years. We merely list, with approval, the following titles: *Franco Means Business* (Devin-Adair); *Siege of the Alcazar* (Knopf); *March of a Nation* (McBride); *Spain, a Tragic Journey* (Macauley); *Red Terror in Madrid* (Longmans); *Spanish Rehearsal* (Sheed and Ward); *Invertebrate Spain* (Norton); *And then the Storm* (Longmans); *Correspondent in Spain* (Sheed and Ward).

The situation in China adds an extrinsic value to Kenneth Scott Latourette's *Development of China* (Houghton); and Harold M. Vinacke's *Far East in Modern Times* (Crofts). Both are revisions.

It is something of an achievement to have gotten this far without having mentioned the prolific and irrepressible Mr. Belloc. His *Crusades* (Bruce) and his *Crisis of Civilization* (Fordham), both typically Bellockian, should find favor with Christmas shoppers. A book that should not be overlooked is Carl Conrad Eckhardt's *Papacy and World Affairs* (Chicago Univ.), and an able treatise on the secularization of politics since 1648. *The Separation of Church and State in Italian Thought*, by S. William Halperin, is another acceptable study from the Chicago University Press.

We have space for a mere mention of *A Cardinal of the Medici* (Macmillan), a novel by Susan E. Hicks Beach; *An Introduction to Medieval Europe* (Norton), by J. W. Thompson and E. N. Johnson; the much over-rated *Hundred Years* (Doubleday), by Philip Guedalla.

R. CORRIGAN

## YOUR CHILDREN'S READING

Whether You Are Parent or Teacher  
Should Be a Matter of Deep Concern

## THE PRO PARVULIS BOOK CLUB

Empire State Building, 1219, New York, N. Y.

Select Books for Three Groups in  
Ages Ranging from Six to Sixteen